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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.

First Inventor

Eli Brown

Title

Express Mail Label No.

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. ☒ Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. ☒ Applicant claims small entity status.
See 37 CFR 1.27.
3. ☒ Specification [Total Pages 13]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
 - Descriptive title of the invention
 - Cross Reference to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to sequence listing, a table, or a computer program listing appendix
 - Background of the Invention
 - Brief Summary of the Invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
4. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 5]
5. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages]
 - a. ☒ Newly executed (original or copy)
Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63 (d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)
 - b. ☐ **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s)
named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
6. ☐ Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76

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7. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program (Appendix)
8. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary)
 - a. ☐ Computer Readable Form (CRF)
 - b. Specification Sequence Listing on:
 - i. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or
 - ii. ☐ paper
 - c. ☐ Statements verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

9. ☒ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
10. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement ☐ Power of Attorney
(when there is an assignee)
11. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
12. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
13. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
14. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
(if foreign priority is claimed)
16. ☐ Other:

17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment, or in an Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☒ Continuation-in-part (CIP)

of prior application No.: 60 , 167,580

Prior application information.

Examiner

Group / Art Unit:

For CONTINUATION OR DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

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Marcus G. Theodore

Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)

26,815

Signature

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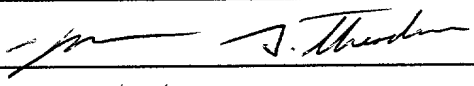
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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number		
	Filing Date		
	First Named Inventor	Eli Brown	
	Group Art Unit		
	Examiner Name		
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number	

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

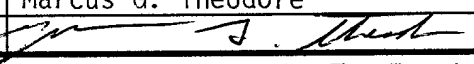
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Marcus G. Theodore
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Date	11/1/2000

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

Serial No.	:	
Filing Date:	:	
Inventor:	:	Eli Brown
Invention:	:	Iron Cover
Examiner:	:	Group Art

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION)
CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27 (b))

I hereby declare that I, Eli Brown, am the inventor of the above referenced application, that I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and are under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person or entity who would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d), or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

I further acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein are made of my own knowledge and are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the

application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Dated this 23 day of October ²⁰⁰⁰~~1999~~.

Inventor: _____

Eli Brown

Eli Brown
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that I mailed a true and correct copy of the foregoing Small Inventor Declaration to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, postage prepaid, this 23 day of October 2000.

Eli Brown

IRON COVER

Related Applications

This application is a continuation-in-part application of the provisional application entitled "Iron Cover" filed 11/26/99, Serial No. 60/167,580.

Background of the Invention

Field. This invention relates to heating irons. In particular, it relates to heating iron covers for ski wax irons.

State of the Art. A number of iron covers are known. Iron covers are used for a variety of purposes such as preventing the scorching of materials being ironed. *Doyel*, U.S. Patent No. 5,987,788 provides a removable iron cover with steam passage holes made of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) inserted over the sole plate of a steam iron to facilitate the efficient delivery of steam from the iron to the material being ironed. It also reduces friction, and acts as a thermal barrier to prevent burning of the material. *Emberston-Nash et al*, U.S. Patent No. 5,815,962 provides another attachable cover for the soleplate of a hand steam iron made of a relatively thin sheet of friction reducing PTFE material including steam passage holes which provides a low friction heat shield for hand pressing steam irons.

A number of curling iron cases have been designed for storing curling irons that are still warm. These irons cannot simply be stowed in a suitcase or kit where items may be damaged in close proximity to the heated iron. Thus the prior art contains a number of curling iron travel cases used to store a hot curling iron, such as *Lykowski*, U.S. Patent No. 5,950,826 which also provides a single travel case with multiple storage compartments for the curling iron and other hair maintenance devices and materials.

Ski wax irons are used to apply various types of waxes to the bottoms of skis, snowboards, and toboggans. Different waxes are used to alter the performance characteristics of the skis to suit a particular snow conditions and protect the skis from moisture. Conventional methods of applying a wax coating to a surface use a solid bar of wax to rub the wax from the bar onto the surface. This hand rubbing typically left a non-uniform and discontinuous layer of wax on the surface, which then had to be smoothed with a piece of plastic or cork. Others used a hand-held propane torch to melt the wax to form a uniform coating on the surface. Still others applied wax to the skis by brushing or rolling melted wax onto the skis.

Ski irons were developed to not only melt the solid wax to drop onto the sliding surfaces, but to then evenly distribute the same using the sole of the hot iron in a trowel-like movement. Thus the bottom of the ski wax iron must be smooth to prevent uneven application of the wax or roughing the sliding surface; thereby reducing the ski's performance. Others use ski wax irons to melt and apply a wax laminate to the bottom of the ski, such as the wax laminate described in *Fitzburgh*, U.S. Patent No. 5,534,061.

These ski wax irons typically only get up to about 200 degrees Celcius to prevent breaking down the components of various types of waxes and bases of skis. However, when turned off, they still are too hot to be placed into an equipment bag without damaging other items placed therein, such as supplies of waxes. Oftentimes, when used in the field the hot ski wax iron is placed in the snow to rapidly cool it before storage. This causes water to get into the electronics damaging the iron. The sole of these ski wax irons must also be protected during storage from marring or damage. The iron cover

described below provides a protective cover for these ski wax irons to aid in ready storage while still warm.

Objectives of the Invention. The objective of the present invention is to provide a cover for the new ski wax irons used to apply waxes to the bottom of skis, although it can be used with other conventional irons.

A further objective is to provide an iron cover, which protects the bottom surface of the iron from nicks, scrapes, and marring. The bottoms of ski wax irons must be protected during storage to prevent them from accidentally being dented or marred in a manner to affect the smooth application of waxes to the bottoms of skis.

Still a further objective is to provide a cover, which partially insulates the hot iron from damaging articles placed in a bag with the cooling iron. These ski wax irons often are used quickly in the field and then have to be put in an equipment bag while still warm. Thus, there is a need for heat resistant, padded storage iron cover for ski wax irons to insure a better performance of skis. It also indirectly better protects the base of the skis.

Summary of the Invention

The invention comprises an iron cover having a padded bottom covered by a flexible non-transmitting heat resistant liner shaped to fit over and cover the sole of a ski wax iron. The bottom padding is of sufficient thickness to prevent the sole of the iron from being damaged by accidental contact. Attached to the padded bottom are a plurality of side flaps also covered by a heat resistant liner. The side flaps are expandably secured together to extend sufficiently around the sides of the iron to secure the iron cover there around with draw strings or other securing means. This oversize side flap configuration allows various sized of irons to be placed and secured within the cover. Each side flap is separated and structured when folded about the iron to define side heat release vents therebetween to allow heat to escape from the cooling hot iron placed therein for storage.

The preferred embodiment uses a flannel type of material for the heat resistant liner, although other materials such as plastics, metal, and fabrics could be used which protect from abrasion, are heat resistant, and will not readily transmit heat from the cooling iron. The preferred material also will not rub off against the sole of the iron during storage. Examples of preferred materials are:

- a. 16 oz. Neoprene coated fiberglass, which is particularly suited to protect from abrasion and liquids,
- b. 18 oz white general purpose fiberglass, 20 oz yellow fiberglass coated for abrasion that has a 1000 degree F. melt temperature,
- c. 22 oz Kevlar blend, which is abrasion and heat resistant and has a 900 degree F. melt temperature,

- d. 28 oz black fiberglass, which is coated for abrasion resistance and has a 1200 degree F. melt temperature,
- e. 30 oz yellow fiberglass, which is coated for abrasion resistance and has a 1000 degree F. melt temperature,
- f. 32 oz orange fiberglass, which is coated for abrasion resistance and has a 1000 degree F. melt temperature,
- g. 18 oz bronze silica/ceramic, which is coated for abrasion resistance and has a 3000 degree F. melt temperature,
- h. 12 oz duck, which is fire, water, mildew resistant,
- i. 32 oz chrome tanned leather,
- j. para aramid fiber, which is abrasion, cut and temperature resistant and has high tensile strength used for protective clothing,
- k. ceramic fiber, which has very high temperature resistance, and low thermal conductivity, used in kiln car seals,
- l. meta aramid fiber, which is inherently flame retardant and has good temperature resistance used in protective fire proximity clothing ,
- m. silica fiber, which has very high temperature resistance, low thermal conductivity, and low abrasion resistance,
- n. Permanent flame retardant (PFR) rayon, which has good strength and is used in fire proximity clothing.

The heat resistant liner is generally covered by another flexible material resistant to abrasion, such as nylon, to protect the liner from being cut or abraded. However, the

iron cover could be made entirely of the heat resistant liner material, provided it had sufficient durability.

The preferred iron cover shape is square, with the liner made of a heat resistant material laid out in a cross-shape to form side flaps with cut out corners surrounding the bottom area, which covers the sole of the iron. A similar shaped nylon outer cover is then placed over the liner, and a layer of cotton, plastic, or other padding added therebetween to pad the bottom of the iron cover to prevent damage to the sole of the iron. The heat resistant liner is then stitched, welded, or secured to the outer cover to secure the padding in position and form open loops or holes in the ends of the side flaps. A rubberized nylon or plastic cord is then threaded between the loops or holes to raise the flaps to secure around an iron and form the heat release vents. The nylon cord preferably has a fastener associated with its ends to enable the cord shortened or lengthened for tightening around the sides of different sized irons. Various types of fasteners can be used for this purpose, or the ends of the elasticized cord may be secured or tied together without a fastener.

Other iron cover shapes may be employed as long as they are sufficient to cover the sole of the iron to protect it from dirt, scratches, dents or any other impact damage, which would mar the iron sole surface. However, the cover and flaps must be expandable to secure around the iron and form or have side heat release vent holes when secured about a cooling iron to release heat.

Also attached to the bottom of the iron cover is an openable strap storage system to secure about the iron placed within the iron cover. This strap storage system is also configured to secure folded iron power cords to the iron cover. The preferred

embodiment of the storage system comprises an securable strap with corresponding hook and loop strips securing the ends and corresponding segments. This strap is sewn to the bottom of the cover in a manner to removably secure around an iron placed therein, but having additional length to fold back on itself in a manner to secure folded power cords therebetween. In the preferred embodiment, this is accomplished by lining segments of the strap with hoop and loop strips, so that the end of the strap can be threaded through a cinch attached to one end of the sewn strap, which is doubled back over the top of the iron cover to secure between the ends of the strap the folded power cord of the iron.

To use the invention, a hot iron is first allowed to cool somewhat so that it won't singe the liner. Then it is placed within the cover on the heat resistant liner segment covering the padded bottom and secured therein with the elastic cord holding the sides flaps. The iron is further secured by the strap system and the iron cord is then folded and secured thereto with the double backed ends of the strap affixed with the corresponding hook and loop strips. Thus stored, the iron cover protects the sole of the iron from scratches and marring. It also prevents direct transmission of the heat from the iron, and allows hot irons to gradually cool during storage. Ski wax irons may therefore be put away in an equipment bag or kit while still warm without damaging waxes and other stored equipment. The power strap storage system also secures the wrapped iron cord and keeps it neatly packed.

Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one preferred embodiment

Fig. 2 is a side view of the embodiment shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a bottom view of the embodiment shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of another preferred embodiment

Fig. 5 is a bottom view of the embodiment of Fig. 4

Description of the Illustrated Embodiments

As shown in Fig. 1, the invention 10 comprises an iron cover 12 having a square padded bottom 14 formed by a flexible heat resistant reflective liner 16 sewn to a nylon cover 17 shaped to fit over and cover the sole of a ski wax iron. The padded bottom 14 is of sufficient thickness to prevent the sole of the iron from being damaged by accidental contact. Attached to the padded bottom 14 are a plurality of side flaps 18 also covered by the heat resistant liner 16. The side flaps 18 are expandably secured together to extend sufficiently around the sides of the iron placed therein to secure the iron cover there around with draw strings or other securing means. This preferred embodiment uses a reflective nylon heat resistant type of material for the heat resistant liner 16, and a durable nylon for the cover 17.

A strap webbing 20 storage system surrounds and is attached to the bottom 14 to secure the iron and power cord in place. Each side flap 18 is separated and structured when folded about the iron to define side heat release vents 22 therebetween to allow heat to escape from the cooling hot iron placed therein for storage. A drawstring 24 with a fastener 26 shown in Fig. 2 passes through loops 28 in the side flaps 18 to secure the side flaps 18 about the sides of the iron to allow the vents to release the heat.

Fig. 3 shows the padded bottom 14 and sides flaps 18 covered with the nylon cover 17. The padded bottom 14 is contains a quarter inch thick cotton pad (not shown). The strap webbing 20 is sewn to the bottom 14 as shown to wrap around the iron cover.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of another preferred embodiment of the invention 10. This embodiment employs an iron cover 12 made of a felt liner 16 covered by a nylon. It is shown secured about a Swix digital iron, which gets up to 352.4 degrees Fahrenheit.

Claims

I claim:

1. An iron cover comprising:
 - a. a non-transmitting heat resistant liner having:
 - i. a padded bottom segment shaped to cover and protect the sole of an iron placed thereon from marring or damage, and
 - ii. a plurality of side flaps with ends, the side flaps extending sufficiently to secure around the sides of an iron placed within the liner and structured to define a plurality of heat release vents to allow heat to escape from a hot iron placed in the cover for storage, and
 - b. securing means associated with ends of the side flaps to secure them around the iron.
2. An iron cover according to Claim 1, including an abrasion resistant cover attached to and covering the heat resistant liner.
3. An iron cover according to Claim 2, including an openable strap storage system to secure the cover about the iron, and power cords therein when folded.
4. An iron according to Claim 3, wherein the liner has a cross shape having arms and the body, the flaps formed of the arms, and the padded body segment formed of the body.
5. An iron cover comprising:
 - a. a flexible non-transmitting heat resistant liner with:

1. a central body segment padded and sized to cover and protect the sole of an iron and
 2. a plurality of side flaps extending sufficiently to be secured around the sides of an iron placed within the liner,
- b. securing means associated with ends of the side flaps to secure them around the iron, the side flaps structured and separated to define heat release vents to allow heat to escape from a hot iron placed in the cover for storage,
 - c. a flexible abrasion resistant cover attached to and covering the heat resistant liner, and
 - d. an openable strap storage system with attachment ends to secure the cover about the iron, and power cords therebetween when the ends are folded back upon themselves..
6. An iron cover according to Claim 5, wherein the cover is shaped in the form of a cross having arms forming the side flaps and the body of the cross forming the central body segment.
 7. An iron cover according to Claim 5, wherein the securing means comprises an elastic cord associated with the side flaps.

Abstract

An iron cover for ski wax irons a heat resistant liner having a padded bottom segment shaped to cover and protect the sole of an iron and a plurality of side flaps with ends. The side flaps extend sufficiently around the sides of an iron placed within the liner, and are secured around the iron with an elastic cord associated with the side flaps. The side flaps are structured and separated to define a plurality of heat release vents to allow heat to escape from a hot iron placed in the cover for storage.

Fig. 1

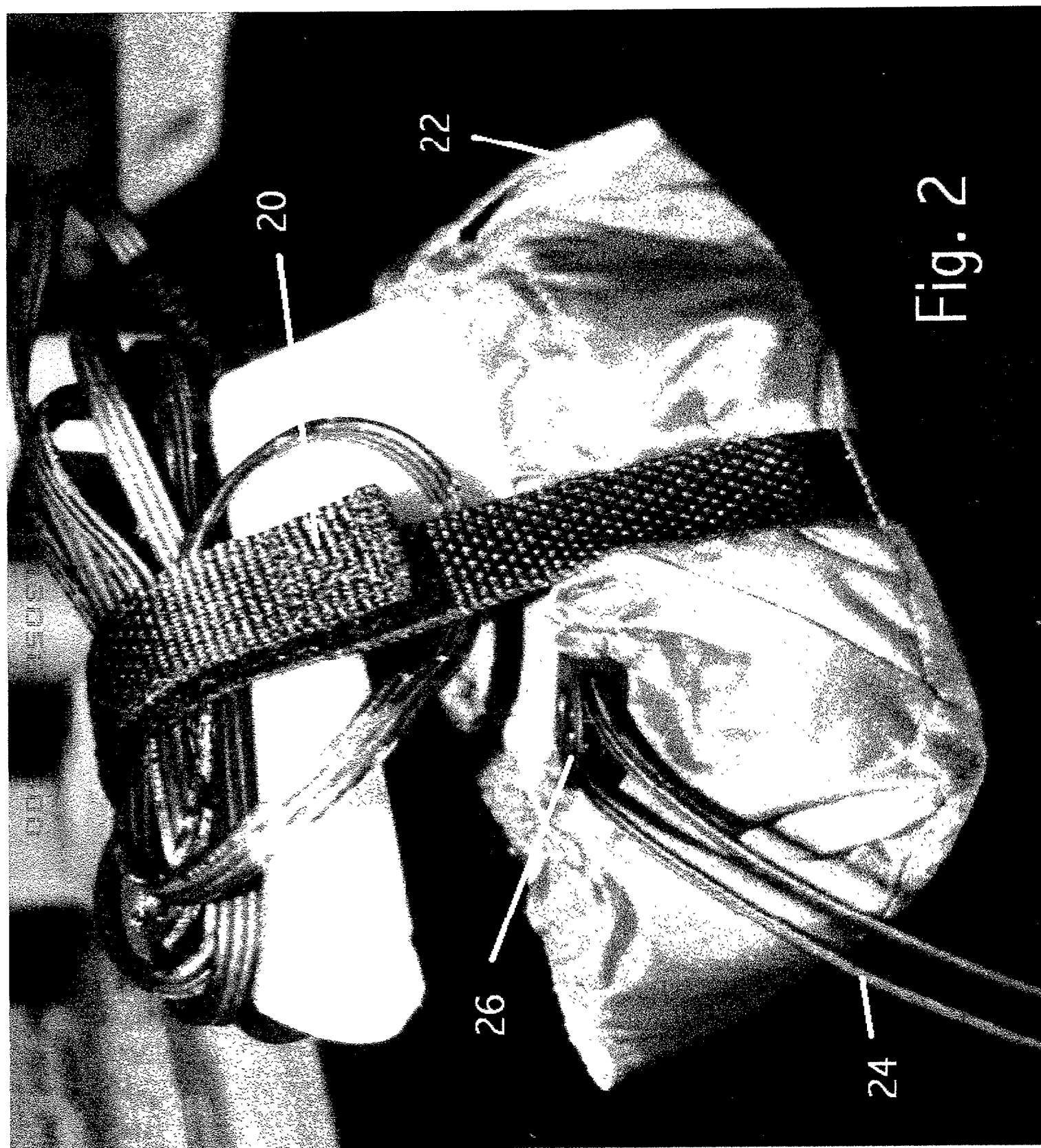


Fig. 2

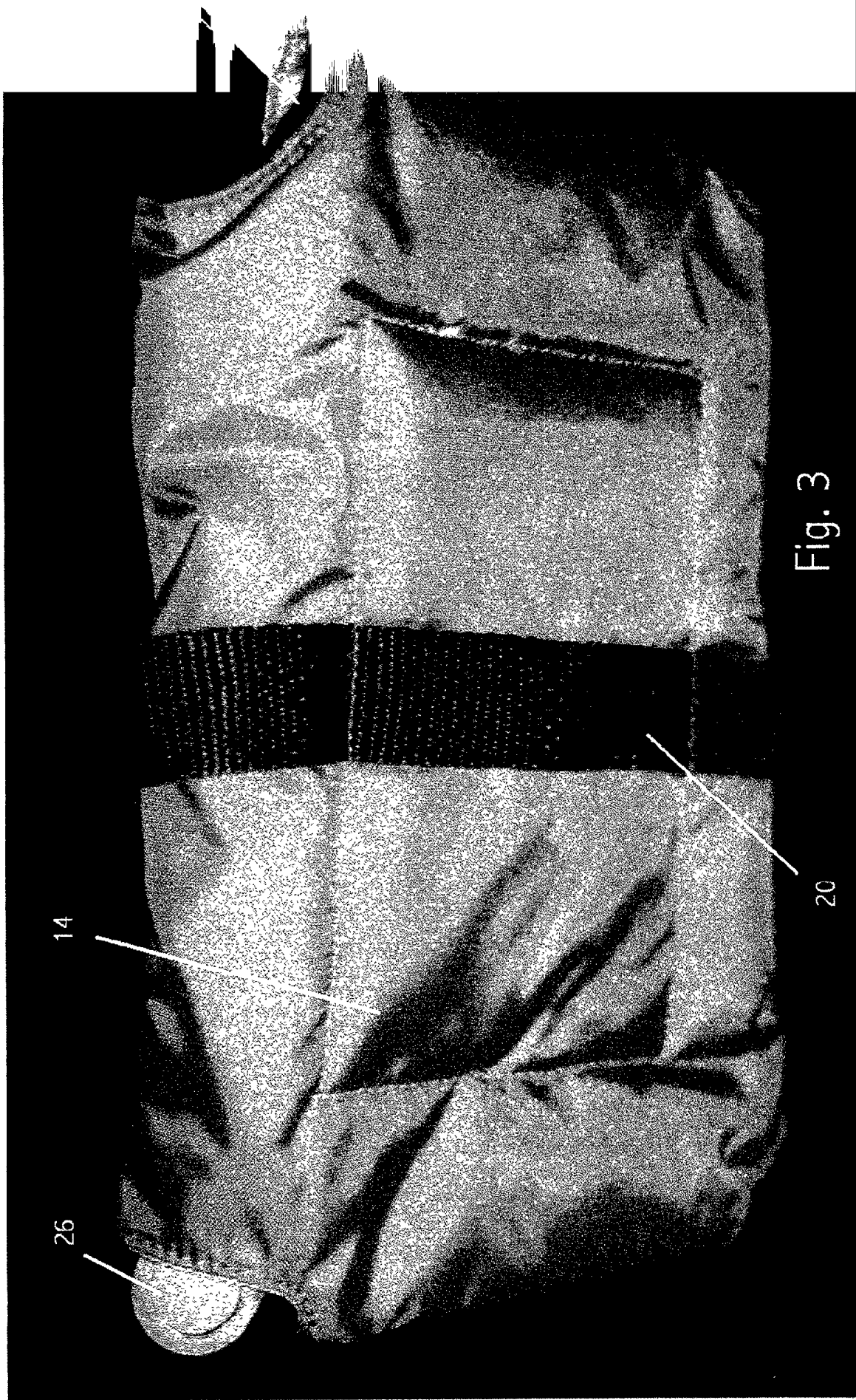
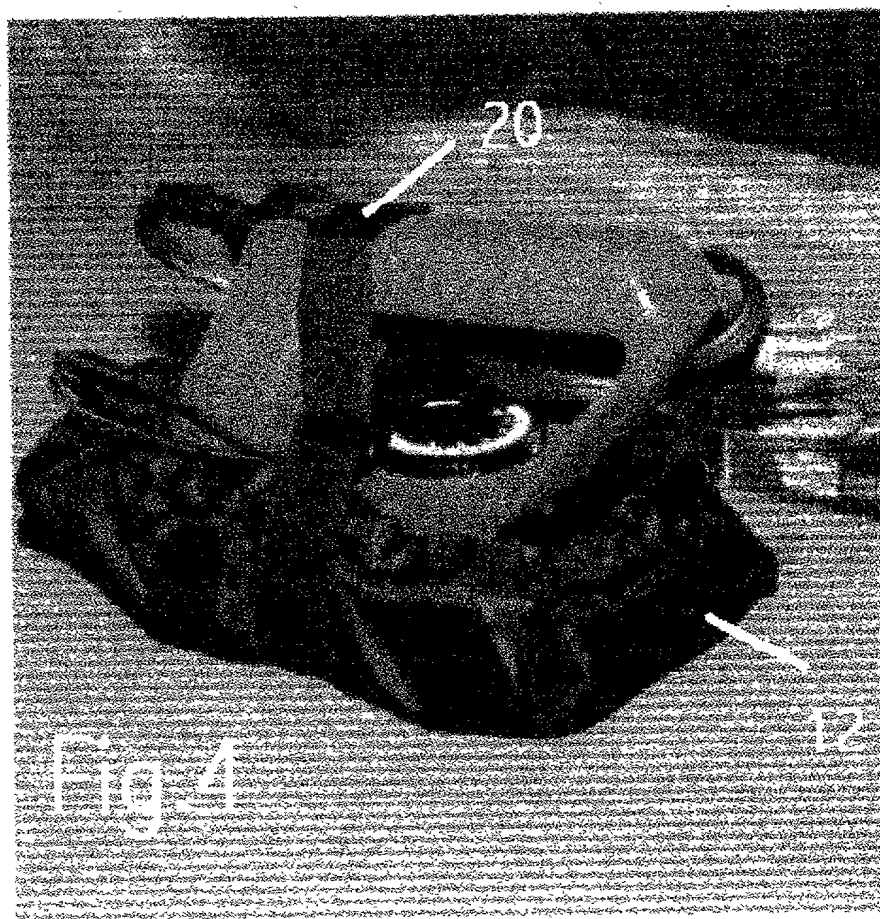


Fig. 3

1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929 1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939 1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959 1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032 2033 2034 2035 2036 2037 2038 2039 2040 2041 2042 2043 2044 2045 2046 2047 2048 2049 2050 2051 2052 2053 2054 2055 2056 2057 2058 2059 2060 2061 2062 2063 2064 2065 2066 2067 2068 2069 2070 2071 2072 2073 2074 2075 2076 2077 2078 2079 2080 2081 2082 2083 2084 2085 2086 2087 2088 2089 2090 2091 2092 2093 2094 2095 2096 2097 2098 2099 2100 2101 2102 2103 2104 2105 2106 2107 2108 2109 2110 2111 2112 2113 2114 2115 2116 2117 2118 2119 2120 2121 2122 2123 2124 2125 2126 2127 2128 2129 2130 2131 2132 2133 2134 2135 2136 2137 2138 2139 2140 2141 2142 2143 2144 2145 2146 2147 2148 2149 2150 2151 2152 2153 2154 2155 2156 2157 2158 2159 2160 2161 2162 2163 2164 2165 2166 2167 2168 2169 2170 2171 2172 2173 2174 2175 2176 2177 2178 2179 2180 2181 2182 2183 2184 2185 2186 2187 2188 2189 2190 2191 2192 2193 2194 2195 2196 2197 2198 2199 2200 2201 2202 2203 2204 2205 2206 2207 2208 2209 2210 2211 2212 2213 2214 2215 2216 2217 2218 2219 2220 2221 2222 2223 2224 2225 2226 2227 2228 2229 2230 2231 2232 2233 2234 2235 2236 2237 2238 2239 2240 2241 2242 2243 2244 2245 2246 2247 2248 2249 2250 2251 2252 2253 2254 2255 2256 2257 2258 2259 2260 2261 2262 2263 2264 2265 2266 2267 2268 2269 2270 2271 2272 2273 2274 2275 2276 2277 2278 2279 2280 2281 2282 2283 2284 2285 2286 2287 2288 2289 2290 2291 2292 2293 2294 2295 2296 2297 2298 2299 2300 2301 2302 2303 2304 2305 2306 2307 2308 2309 2310 2311 2312 2313 2314 2315 2316 2317 2318 2319 2320 2321 2322 2323 2324 2325 2326 2327 2328 2329 2330 2331 2332 2333 2334 2335 2336 2337 2338 2339 2340 2341 2342 2343 2344 2345 2346 2347 2348 2349 2350 2351 2352 2353 2354 2355 2356 2357 2358 2359 2360 2361 2362 2363 2364 2365 2366 2367 2368 2369 2370 2371 2372 2373 2374 2375 2376 2377 2378 2379 2380 2381 2382 2383 2384 2385 2386 2387 2388 2389 2390 2391 2392 2393 2394 2395 2396 2397 2398 2399 2400 2401 2402 2403 2404 2405 2406 2407 2408 2409 2410 2411 2412 2413 2414 2415 2416 2417 2418 2419 2420 2421 2422 2423 2424 2425 2426 2427 2428 2429 2430 2431 2432 2433 2434 2435 2436 2437 2438 2439 2440 2441 2442 2443 2444 2445 2446 2447 2448 2449 2450 2451 2452 2453 2454 2455 2456 2457 2458 2459 2460 2461 2462 2463 2464 2465 2466 2467 2468 2469 2470 2471 2472 2473 2474 2475 2476 2477 2478 2479 2480 2481 2482 2483 2484 2485 2486 2487 2488 2489 2490 2491 2492 2493 2494 2495 2496 2497 2498 2499 2500 2501 2502 2503 2504 2505 2506 2507 2508 2509 2510 2511 2512 2513 2514 2515 2516 2517 2518 2519 2520 2521 2522 2523 2524 2525 2526 2527 2528 2529 2530 2531 2532 2533 2534 2535 2536 2537 2538 2539 2540 2541 2542 2543 2544 2545 2546 2547 2548 2549 2550 2551 2552 2553 2554 2555 2556 2557 2558 2559 2560 2561 2562 2563 2564 2565 2566 2567 2568 2569 2570 2571 2572 2573 2574 2575 2576 2577 2578 2579 2580 2581 2582 2583 2584 2585 2586 2587 2588 2589 2590 2591 2592 2593 2594 2595 2596 2597 2598 2599 2600 2601 2602 2603 2604 2605 2606 2607 2608 2609 2610 2611 2612 2613 2614 2615 2616 2617 2618 2619 2620 2621 2622 2623 2624 2625 2626 2627 2628 2629 2630 2631 2632 2633 2634 2635 2636 2637 2638 2639 2640 2641 2642 2643 2644 2645 2646 2647 2648 2649 2650 2651 2652 2653 2654 2655 2656 2657 2658 2659 2660 2661 2662 2663 2664 2665 2666 2667 2668 2669 2670 2671 2672 2673 2674 2675 2676 2677 2678 2679 2680 2681 2682 2683 2684 2685 2686 2687 2688 2689 2690 2691 2692 2693 2694 2695 2696 2697 2698 2699 2700 2701 2702 2703 2704 2705 2706 2707 2708 2709 2710 2711 2712 2713 2714 2715 2716 2717 2718 2719 2720 2721 2722 2723 2724 2725 2726 2727 2728 2729 2730 2731 2732 2733 2734 2735 2736 2737 2



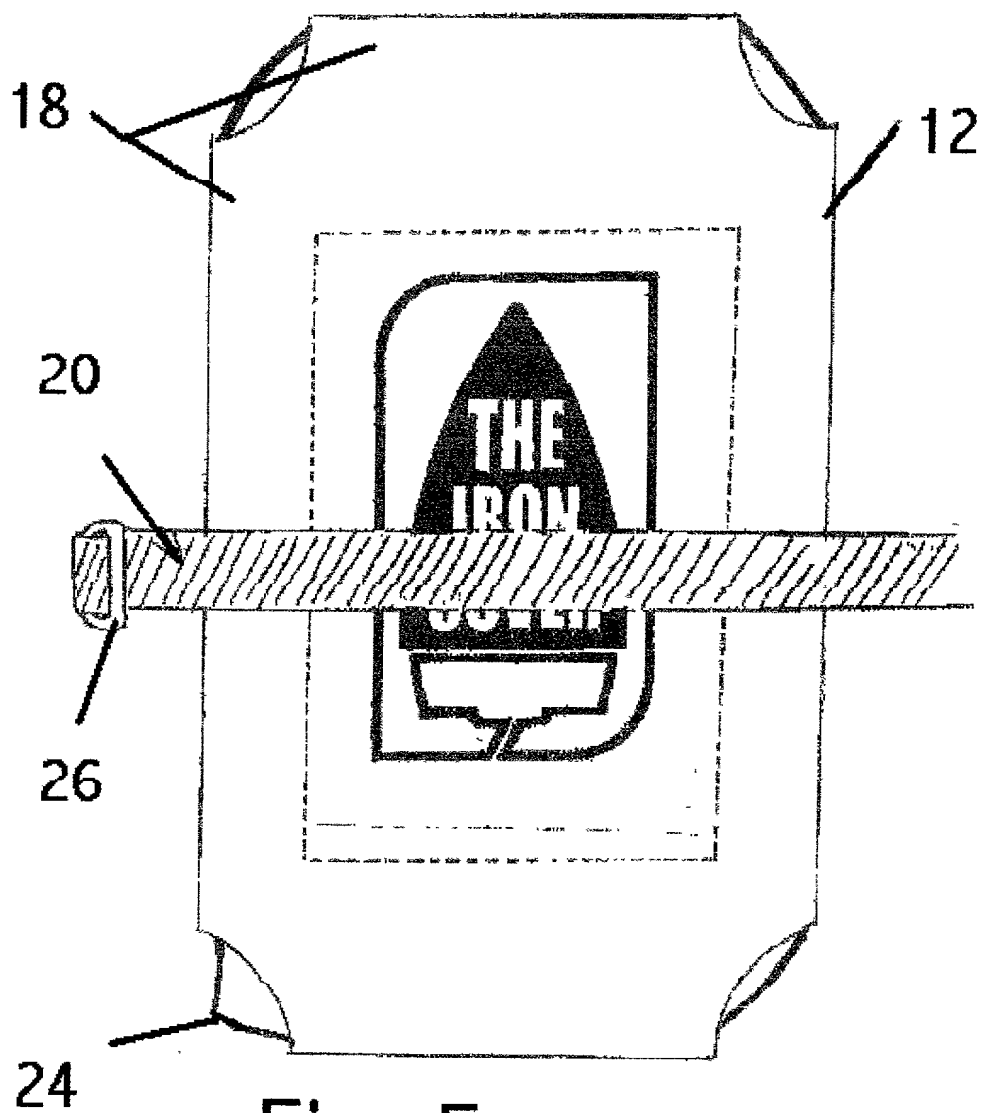


Fig. 5

DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY AND PETITION
SMALL INVENTOR

I, Eli Brown, Whitman College, 345 Broyer Avenue, Walla Walla, Washington 99362, hereby declare that I am a citizen of the United States; that I verily believe that I am the original, first, and sole inventor of the invention Iron Cover and claimed in the attached specification, which is a continuation-in-part application of the originally filed provisional application entitled "Iron Cover" filed 11/26/99, Serial No. 60/167,580, now abandoned, that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to in the oath or declaration, that I do not know and do not believe that this invention was ever known or used in the United States before my invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof, or more than one year prior to this application, or in public use or on sale in the United States for more than one year prior to this application; that this invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate in any country foreign to the United States in an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months before this application; that I acknowledge a duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of the application in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56(a); and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on the invention has been filed by me or my representatives or assigns or with my knowledge and consent in any country foreign to the United States.

I further appoint Marcus G. Theodore, Registration No. 26,815, 466 South 500 East, Salt Lake City, Utah 84102, Telephone No. (801) 359-8622 as my attorney authorized to act in a representative capacity for the purpose of receiving all responses thereto, responding to office actions, filing amendments, continuation-in-part applications, and other documents necessary for prosecuting the appended application.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of the United States application listed above, and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States Application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 34, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national filing of this application.

I, the undersigned petition declare further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements made will jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Dated:

10/23/00



Eli Brown

Whitman College
345 Broyer Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362